

Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

April 20, 2011 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Southeast Seattle Senior Center

Attendees

NAC Members:

Christie Coxley, David Sauvion, Gregory Davis, Harry Hoffman, Katy Curtis, Margaret Yellowwolf, Matt Kozleski, Mohamed Sheikh Hassan, Peter Masundire, Robert West "Trey", Vallerie Fisher

POLs:

Ethiopia Alemneh, Issa Ulo, Jesus Rodriguez, Sefie Cabiao, Tiana Wood-Sims

Public Members:

Bob Rosenberger

City Staff:

Nora Liu (DPD), Sebhat Tenna (DON), David Goldberg (DPD), Kerry Wade (DON)

Agenda review

- Agenda was approved.

March Summary Notes

- Summary notes from March 16, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

Absences:

- No absences. Still in need of a Youth representative for the NAC.

Public Comment Period Discussion

NAC members agreed to add the following statement to meeting procedures as suggested by Peter:

- (1) all public comment presentations shall be limited to a 2-minutes time frame, and
- (2) speakers who commented at first public comment period shall be asked to yield to others, if there are any, who may not had chance to speak.

- Suggestion to produce a FAQ sheet to be available at meetings outlining procedures.

NAC members agreed to begin working on drafting FAQ sheet of meeting procedures.

Review and provide Guidance on Draft Documents

- Nora thanked NAC members and the public for input from community engagements in March:
 - One hundred and twenty people gave comments at the March 19th meeting;
 - POLs held separate language/culture specific meetings and got feedback from 183 participants;

- Seventy people responded to the online questionnaire;
- Four hundred surveys were distributed to Rainier Beach students and response gotten from over 100 students;
- Business feedback was also sought and a few were received.
- Gregory Davis commented that these numbers should be used as a baseline.
- David appreciated NAC members' pointing out issues with the way questions were worded. City staff tried hard to respond to the NAC's input on the questions in that we allowed for flexibility by providing room for open ended comments. We appreciate the NAC's willingness to help steer us all in the right direction and we apologized if we missed the mark.
- Mohamed asked if comments could be identified by community/how they entered comments. City staff responded this would be possible as we enter into the work further along and documents are posted online.
- POL Reports
 - Youth appreciated accessible transportation, Union Gospel Mission, churches, family in the area, parks;
 - Youth are concerned about lack of enough after-school activities or sports leagues, community center closure, safety concerns and relations with police
 - Don't want to be identified as "poor, immigrant" neighborhood, or gang neighborhood.
 - Want a "decent, livable neighborhood", good schools, availability of shopping, jobs, decent, affordable housing, health centers, recreation facilities, tutoring available, multi-cultural center.
 - Concerned about lack of quality education, bi-lingual education, safety, employment, free after school programs, multi-cultural center with activities for adults and seniors, as well as children.
 - Issues raised include discrimination, immigration, police relations.
 - Additional concerns included lack of lighting, security cameras in some areas, Rainier/Henderson bus stop safety issues, cleanliness of parks, more walkability , lack of meeting space, and after school programs.
- David stated one theme that came through was lack of connections between areas in Rainier Beach.
- Attendees moved into three groups to discuss comments/themes from the 31-page document and provide feedback: Was information captured correctly? Are we missing anything?
- Report out comments include:
 - Change "OED" to grant funding – should be accessible to the business community
 - There are a group of strategies to explore to support small business community
 - Include a multi-cultural center in the town center
 - Need to think holistic and comprehensive: multi-cultural, multi-service centers/schools/businesses/housing/people/safety/health/recreation/transportation are all linked
 - Schools/government/businesses need to be linked/form partnerships
 - Need access to funding from various levels, government, foundations, business, etc. Should be a layered approach.

- Reframe safety issue— leads to belief that area is a cesspool of crime. Need to deal with issue, but should not lead with it. Need comprehensive, holistic approach. Addressing all of the other areas ultimately addresses safety issues.
- Need to increase opportunities and strengthen components in addition to adding more police.
- Felt parks and open space are already strong. Need more programming.
- We could consider a beach at Beer Sheva Park.
- David will edit the document to reflect comments.

Consultant Scope of Work

- NAC should start thinking about what type of consultant should be hired. What is most important area to address?
- Will need someone who can create a comprehensive plan; not just address bits and pieces.
- Community-based economic development could be one area to consider.
- Will need actual solution/outcome; not just more analysis.
- Lack of connectedness was a big concern. School District owns a large parcel. Will need to have discussion with them.

Public Comment

- Need a shuttle bus to feed into light rail station.

Agenda Setting

- The additional meeting in May will be in the Brighton building on Wednesday, May 4th.
- Next community meeting will be in June and it may be held in the evening, rather than Saturday morning. Will decide on June date via e-mail exchange.
- Need to offer different format from first meeting.
- The NAC members were asked if it would be good to have people already doing work in the community invited to the next meeting to have them involved at this point. Suggestion was pulled off the table, as feedback indicated less specific tasks at this point.
- Councilmembers Clark and O'Brien have been invited to attend July 20 or August meeting.

Wrap-up

- This will be Pamela's last NAC meeting until September. Sebhat will co-facilitate until she returns.